Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LIMA 07821 172338Z

63
ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SCCT-02 AID-20 NIC-01 DRC-01 /120 W
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R 172250Z SEP 74
FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
TO SECSTATE WAHDC 1947

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMA 7821

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, PINT, PE
SUBJECT: THE MILGOV AND ITS OPPOSITION

REF: LIMA 7337

1. SEPT 17 CRONICA REPORTS THAT 503 OF 514 ARRESTED IN CONNECTION WITH
JULY 28-29 MARAFLORES RIOTS HAVE BEEN FREED. NEWSPAPER ADDS THAT 56 OF 126 IMPOUNED AUTOMOBILES HAVE BEEN RELEASED. CRONICA NOTES THAT 11 ACCION POPULAR LEADERS REMAIN JAIL, INCLUDING TWO WOMEN.

2. EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS THAT ONLY REMAINING INDEPENDENT MAGAZINES OF ANY
CONSEQUENCE, CARETAS AND OIGA, ARE HAVING GREAT DIFFICULTY FINDING PRINTERS WILLING TO FACE LABOR AND POLICE PRESSURES AGAINST THEIR PUBLISHING "COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARY" MAGAZINES. ANY VESTIGES OF PRESS FREEDOM IN PERU WOULD OF COURSE DISAPPEAR IF THESE MAGAZINES ARE UNABLE
TO APPEAR ON NEWSSTANDS.

3. RUMORS ARE BEING HEARD ABOUT POTENTIAL "RIGHT WING" TERRORISM AGAINST MILGOV BY GROUPS SUCH AS APRA, DISGRUNTLED NAVY OFFICERS, AND ACCION POPULAR. HOWEVER, THE FACT IS THAT NO RIGHT WING VIOLENCE IS PREPORTED TO HAVE TAKEN PLACE SINCE LATE JULY-MID-AUGUST PERIOD WHEN THERE WERE SOME ISOLATED FIRE BOMBINGS OF CARS OWNED BY
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PAGE 02 LIMA 07821 172338Z

MILGOV FIGURES AS WELL AS TWO SEPARATE SHOOTING EPISODES AGAINST

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

SOVIET AND CUBAN EMBASSIES. ANY DECISION BY APRA TO ENGAGE IN TERRORISM, NOT REPEAT NOT YET KNOWN TO BE THE CASE, WOULD OF COURSE HAVE TO BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY. WHILE THE VILLANUEVA WING OF APRA SUPPOSEDLY FAVORS SUCH ACTION, LEADER HAYA DE LA TORRE HAS SO FAR REFUSED TO CONFRONT THE GOVERNMENT OPENLY. INSTEAD, HAYA SEEMS TO BE WAITING FOR RIPER SITUATION, POSSIBLY ONE STEMMING FROM SERIOUS ECONOMIC UNREST (WHICH DOES NOT EXIST AT PRESENT).
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